# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3746
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
BAN ON SELLING OF TANK BOTTOM SLUDGE
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) the total value of orders given to TERI in last five years by ONGC and details/ value of orders given on nomination basis without inviting tender;

(b) whether there is any ban on selling of tank bottom sludge by petroleum producing and refining companies like ONGC, OIC;

(c) if so, the quantity of tank bottom sludge sold by these companies to vendors in last ten years;

(d) whether there is any list of vendors is approved by M/o Environment and Forests (MOEF) for handling of tank bottom sludge; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not selling the tank bottom sludge, which is a valuable raw material for recovering wax and oil by ONGC to MOEF approved vendors and destroying the same by paying huge amount to TERI or other agencies at very high cost?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (e): Under the provisions of The Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, Tank Bottom Sludge comes under the category of hazardous waste and Oil Companies are complying with all obligations for safe disposal of Tank Bottom Sludge as per provisions of these rules. While there is a list of approved vendors for selling of the Tank Bottom Sludge, due to certain reports of improper and spurious use of the said products by certain vendors, ONGC being responsible corporate took a deliberate and conscious decision of not selling the Tank Bottom Sludge and decided that sludge at all installations be disposed through bio-remediation/ incineration or any standard procedure. Through bioremediation wherein the indigenous microflora is used to degrade the oily waste into harmless constituents like carbon dioxide and water along with incremental beneficial microflora is generated. With this objective ONGC has entered into an agreement with TERI and under that agreement the process of bio-remediation through the use of Oil-Zapper a patented technology, is being practiced all over ONGC for the safe disposal of oily sludge / oil contaminated soil etc. Internationally multinational oil companies are using bio-remediation for treatment of such products.

In the case of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Digboi Refinery with the approval of Assam State Pollution Control Board has been selling Tank Bottom Sludge to local small scale industries. Year-wise break up of quantity them sold by Digboi Refining is given below:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 18.984 MT |
| 2002-03 | 678.637 MT |
| 2003-04 | 389.148 MT |
| 2004-05 | 839.898 MT |
| 2005-06 | 847.603 MT |
| 2006-07 | 79.480 MT |
| 2007-08 | 154.400 MT |

Also, Gujarat Refinery, Vadodara had sold one lot of ETP sludge of 2000 MT in March, 2000. However, present practice in other refineries is to recover maximum oil from the oily sludge through melting pits/ centrifuge etc. The residual sludge contains less than 10% of oil which is bio-degraded in the refinery premises through bio-remediation process developed jointly by M/s TERI & IOCL (R&D).